# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:850
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2017
Promotion of Sports
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**Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has initiated any policy/programme to promote sports and encourage new talents from amongst rural youth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to initiate any policy/programme for this purpose and if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a)&(b) Sports is a State subject and, therefore, development of Sports is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government complements/supplements the efforts of the State Governments.
A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) was being implemented during the period from 2008-09 to 2013-14 to encourage mass participation in sporting activities.

Under PYKKA Scheme, sports competitions, namely, rural sports competitions, women sports competitions and north east games were conducted and playfields were developed in Village Panchayats and Block Panchayats all over India. PYKKA Scheme was reviewed and revised as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), also a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and was implemented during the period 2014-15 and 2015-16. Under RGKA Scheme, besides rural sports competitions, women sports competitions and north east games, competitions in left wing extremism affected areas were also held.

A new Scheme called "Khelo India − National Programme for Development of Sports", subsuming the RGKA Scheme, is being implemented by this Ministry as a Central Sector Scheme from the financial year 2016-17. This Scheme provides for conducting sports competitions in two age groups of (i) under 14 and (ii) under 17 all over India to encourage mass participation of both boys and girls in Sports and creation of sports infrastructure facilities, namely, Synthetic Athletic Track, Synthetic Hockey Field, Synthetic Turf Football Ground, Multipurpose hall, Swimming pool, etc., and identification of sporting talents. This scheme is applicable all over India.

Details of sports infrastructure developed under the RGKA and Khelo India Scheme are given in Annexure I and II. The number of participants in the sports competitions under the RGKA are at Annexure - III.
Besides the above, in order to promote sports in the country, Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing the following sports promotional schemes across the country to identify talented sports persons in the age group of 8-25 years and nurture them to excel at national and international competitions:
? National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
? Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
? SAI Training Centre (STC)
? Special Area Games (SAG)
? Extension Centre of STC/SAG
? Centre of Excellence (COE)
? National Sports Academies (NSA)

Accordingly, SAI has established 10 Regional Centres and 02 educational institutions to implement the above sports promotional schemes in the country.
The majority of the youth (sports persons) selected under the above schemes are identified from the rural, tribal and backward areas of the country. The selected trainees are provided with regular sports training in their respective sports discipline to excel at National and International level competition.

The Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme of SAI lays emphasis on scouting talent among from the rural and tribal youth in the age group of 10-18 years. The majority of the trainees admitted under this scheme come from rural, backward and tribal areas of the country. Currently, there are 19 SAG Centres with 2000 trainees (1120 boys and 880 girls) being trained and provided with various facilities.

Similarly, the Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme which is a joint venture with Indian Army also identifies youth sports talent from the rural and tribal areas falling under their regimental centres. The trainees in the age group of 8-14 years are admitted in ABSC centres for regular sports training and most of them, who are medically fit, are enrolled in the Army on attaining the age of 17 Â½

years. As on date 1352 boys trainees are being trained in 24 Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) centres across the country.

Presently, under SAI Sports Promotional Schemes 13,684 talented sports person 9653 boys and 4031 girls are provided with regular sports training in 27 sports disciplines on residential and non-residential basis in 290 SAI sports centres.

The Achievements of trainees under SAI Sports Promotional Schemes at National Level for the year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are at Annexure − IV.

(c) Does not arise.

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